

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 05789 111737Z

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TAGS: PFOR, EG

SUBJECT: SADAT INTERVIEWED BY BBC

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SUMMARY. IN MAY 27 INTERVIEW WITH BBC PUBLISHED JUNE 11 SADAT CALLS ON US TO DECLARE ITS STAND RE ME PEACE NEGOTIATIONS, DECLARES THAT SCR 242 IS APPROPRIATE OUTLINE FOR SETTLEMENT AND REITERATES SUGGESTION THAT PARTICIPATION IN GENEVA CONFERENCE BE EXPANDED. HE SAYS THAT ALTHOUGH ISRAEL IS "ESTABLISHED FACT", FORMAL RECOGNITION NOT YET POSSIBLE. SADAT REPEATS COMPLAINT THAT SOVIETS HAVE NEITHER RESUPPLIED HIM NOR AGREED TO RESCHEDULE EGYPTIAN DEBT. END SUMMARY.

1. MAIN STORY JUNE 11 IN ALL THREE ARABIC LANGUAGE DAILIES REPORTS ON PRESIDENT SADAT'S INTERVIEW WITH BBC. STORIES LEAD WITH SADAT'S STATEMENT THAT ARAB COUNTRIES HAVE AGREED
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 05789 111737Z

ON TWO POINT PEACE STRATEGY: A)"NOT TO SURRENDER ONE INCH

OF ARAB TERRITORY" AND B) "REJECTION OF COMPROMISES WHERE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS ARE CONCERNED". FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS SUMMARIZE SADAT'S COMMENTS ON OTHER TOPICS.

2. US ROLE. SADAT DOES NOT "DEPEND ON US...BUT US HOLDS ALL THE CARDS". BECAUSE US IS ISRAEL'S ONLY ARMS SUPPLIER, "ONLY US CAN PRESSURE ISRAEL". HE ADDED THAT IT IS "HIGH TIME FOR AMERICA TO ISSUE A CLEAR STATEMENT" ON ME PEACE AND COMMENTED THAT HE BELIEVES THERE TO BE TWO GOVERNMENTS IN US: WHITE HOUSE AND CONGRESS. SADAT DOES NOT WANT "AMERICA TO FAIL ISRAEL", BUT US SHOULD PROTECT HER WITHIN HER BORDERS RATHER THAN WITHIN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

3. ME PEACE. "ANOTHER WAR IS NOT INEVITABLE...THE MAIN LESSON LEARNED FROM THE OCTOBER WAR WAS THAT ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT CANNOT BE SOLVED BY WAR." SADAT EXPLAINED THAT "IMMEDIATE EXECUTION" OF SCR 242 WOULD PROVIDE APPROPRIATE "OUTLINE" FOR PEACE SETTLEMENT.

4. GENEVA. SADAT EXPRESSED DESIRE THAT BRITAIN, FRANCE AND SOME OF NON-ALIGNED STATES PARTICIPATE IN CONFERENCE "TO FORESTALL SHARP DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO SUPERPOWERS". ON PLO PARTICIPATION, SADAT SAID PLO MUST HAVE "INDEPENDENT DELEGATION", ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE "FULL CHOICE IF THEY WISH TO JOIN OTHER DELEGATION".

5. EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL. ASKED IF HE COULD MAKE PLEDGE UPHOLDING ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO SURVIVE, SADAT SAID THAT ISRAEL GOT THIS WITH SCR 242. WHEN ASKED ABOUT RECOGNITION, SADAT REPLIED: "FULL RECOGNITION, NO. BUT ISRAEL IS AN ESTABLISHED FACT." ON PASSAGE OF ISRAELI CARGOES, SADAT REITERATED THAT THIS DEPENDED ON ISRAEL'S "BEHAVIOR".

6. SOVIET-LIBYAN ARMS DEAL. SADAT EXPRESSED HIS SURPRISE THAT "SUCH A GIGANTIC DEAL WORTH 12 BILLION DOLLARS" COULD HAVE BEEN CONCLUDED BETWEEN THOSE TWO COUNTRIES. HE OPINED THAT IT WOULD TAKE "THE SOVIET EXPERTS LONG YEARS TO TRAIN THE LIBYANS", AND ADDED THAT MOSCOW HAD INFORMED NEITHER EGYPT NOR SYRIA PRIOR TO CONCLUDING ARMS DEAL.

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 05789 111737Z

7. EGYPTIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS. SADAT SAID THAT NO AGREEMENT HAS YET BEEN REACHED ON A PROGRAM TO SUPPLY EGYPT WITH ARMS OR ON A PLAN TO RESCHEDULE DEBTS. HE COMPLAINED THAT EGYPT WAS "VICTIM OF DISCRIMINATION", NOTING THAT BOTH SYRIA AND ISRAEL HAVE ALREADY BEEN FULLY COMPENSATED FOR THEIR 1973 MILITARY LOSSES. SADAT COMMENTED THAT HE HAS "NEVER REGRETTED THE DECISION TO SEND THE SOVIET EXPERTS OUT OF EGYPT BEFORE THE OCTOBER WAR", BUT ADDED THAT CURRENT RELATIONS

ARE BASED ON "CORDIALITY AND FRANKNESS". ASKED TO SPECULATE ON REASONS BEHIND SOVIET-LIBYAN ARMS DEAL, SADAT REPORTEDLY SAID "DON'T CREATE TROUBLES FOR ME WITH THE SOVIET FOR I HAVE ENOUGH." HE SAID HE DOES NOT INTEND TO REPLACE THE SOVIET UNION WITH FRANCE AND BRITAIN AS MAJOR ARMS SUPPLIERS, BUT SAID HE DOES WANT TO DIVERSIFY HIS SOURCES OF ARMS.

8. COMMENT: LOCAL BBC CORRESPONDENT INFORMS US THAT THIS INTERVIEW RECORDED IN CAIRO MAY 27 FOR BBC "PANORAMA" PROGRAM. THIS EXPLAINS SADAT'S INSISTENCE IN INTERVIEW ON ANNOUNCEMENT OF US STAND IN ME, A FAMILIAR PRE-SALZBURG CALL THAT HAS NOW APPARENTLY BEEN DROPPED IN FAVOR OF SOFTENED LANGUAGE SUCH AS THAT USED BY VP MUBARAK IN PARIS JUNE 9. (REFTEL REPORTS MUBARAK AS SAYING THAT EGYPT IS AWAITING REASSESSMENT OF AMERICAN POLICY WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED AFTER RABIN VISIT.) SADAT'S LOUD COMPLAINTS REGARDING ARMS RESUPPLY AND DEBT RESCHEDULING PROBLEMS WITH SOVIETS CONTINUE IN CONJUNCTION WITH PUBLICIZED EFFORTS TO "DIVERSIFY ARMS SOURCES". SADAT NEVERTHELESS CAREFUL TO INSERT AMONG HIS COMPLAINTS HIS PRO-FORMA DESCRIPTION OF EGYPTIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS AS "FRANK AND CORDIAL", WHILE LOCAL PRESS JUNE 11 NOTES THAT CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES WERE EXCHANGED BETWEEN CAIRO AND MOSCOW COMMEMORATING FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF SIGNING OF SOVIET - EGYPTIAN FRIENDSHIP TREATY (MAY 27, 1971).
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